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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 7 January 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We write today to express our grave concern over the latest killings of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. In this connection, the latest horrific attack against innocent Palestinian civilians occurred on 7 January 2011, in Al-Khalil (Hebron) when Israeli occupying forces carried out a highly aggressive and bloody raid against the home of the Al-Qawasmi family in Al-Sheikh neighbourhood and executed in cold blood 66-year-old Omar Salim Al-Qawasmi while he was sleeping in his bed.

In addition to the death of Al-Qawasmi, two more Palestinian civilians were killed by the Israeli occupying forces during the week. On 1 January 2011, 35-year-old Jawaher Abu Rahmah died after she inhaled a large amount of tear gas sprayed by Israeli occupying forces at the weekly peaceful demonstration in the village of Bil'in against Israel's illegal Wall, which has been built on confiscated Palestinian land, in violation of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights law as well as the International Court of Justice advisory opinion of 9 July 2004. Sadly and tragically, Jawaher Abu Rahmah is the sister of Bassem Abu Rahmah, who was shot and killed by the Israeli occupying forces with a tear gas canister in April 2009.

In another tragic incident, on 2 January 2011, Israeli occupying forces positioned at Al-Hamra military checkpoint, east of Tubas in the West Bank, shot and killed 25-year-old Ahmed Daraghma, while on his way to work. Reports, including those by the Israeli military, confirmed that Daraghma did not pose a threat against the Israeli occupying forces. Clearly, these illegal acts are criminal, and any attempt to justify them serves only to highlight the occupying Power's determination to walk the path of violence rather than one of peace and cooperation

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to which the Palestinian leadership, along with the international community, are fully committed.

The protection of civilians has been repeatedly declared a priority issue of the United Nations, and in particular the Security Council. Regrettably, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Palestinian civilian population has never received such protection and remains highly vulnerable and exposed to the lethal force continuously unleashed by Israel, the occupying Power. Palestinian civilians continue to be killed, wounded and maimed by the Israeli occupying forces on a daily basis, and we call on the international community to hold Israel accountable for such grave breaches and to bring a halt to all of its violations of international law. The failure of the international community to uphold its responsibility to protect Palestinian civilians has undeniably reinforced Israel's impunity, permitting it to continue committing extrajudicial killings and using excessive force against a defenceless civilian population under the pretext of security or "counter-terrorism", while it continues to ignore its very presence as an occupying Power and to ignore its responsibilities under international law in this regard.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 380 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 29 December 2010 (A/ES-10/507-S/2010/673), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

United Nations A/ES-10/509–S/2011/9

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 11 January 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

In another display of its blatant contempt for international law and the clear position of the international community, Israel, the occupying Power, persists with its unlawful, destructive settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around Occupied East Jerusalem. Recent illegal Israeli actions and measures are once again raising tensions on the ground, threatening to further destabilize the situation, particularly in the Holy City, and further harming the efforts to achieve the two-State solution for peace.

In this connection, we express our vehement condemnation, as has been expressed by the rest of the international community, of the demolition of the historic Shepherd Hotel in the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Occupied East Jerusalem. The Shepherd Hotel was razed by three Israeli bulldozers, early on Sunday, 9 January 2011, as part of a plan to build a new settlement of 20 units in the heart of East Jerusalem, further threatening the contiguity, integrity and viability of the Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. In this regard, it must be reiterated that East Jerusalem remains occupied, that its annexation by the occupying Power continues to be rejected and unrecognized by the international community, and that the City is an integral part of the Palestinian territory and is deemed to be the future capital of the State of Palestine.

The continuation of this illegal colonization campaign once again confirms Israel's deliberate intent to defy international law and the unequivocal calls of the international community for the immediate, full cessation of all settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Undisputedly, the consequences of such illegal and provocative actions seriously call into question Israel's genuineness and credibility as a peace partner and continue to undermine efforts to resume peace talks and to destroy the possibility of achieving a two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders.

While the Palestinian leadership takes positive note of the statements made by the international community denouncing the latest Israeli demolition of the Shepherd Hotel in order to build more illegal settlements, this latest development provides ample proof that such statements alone will not stop Israel's unlawful attempts to continue creating facts on the ground that prejudge and sabotage the two-State solution. In reality, the persistence of such Israeli actions constitute Israel's response to the global calls for a halt to this illegal practice as well as to the serious international and regional efforts being exerted for the realization of a peaceful solution and the achievement of peace and security in the Middle East.

At this critical juncture, the Palestinian leadership reiterates that a complete and permanent cessation of settlement activities is imperative — legally, under international law, and politically — to salvage the peace process. We thus call once again upon the international community, especially the United Nations Security Council, to uphold the relevant resolutions with effective actions that demonstrate responsibility and commitment to international peace and security. This requires immediate attention because, clearly, if Israel is permitted to continue acting with such impunity, its aggressive and illegal actions threaten to ignite yet another devastating cycle of violence that will take us farther away from the peace and stability we seek.

At the same time, Israel persists with its aggression against the Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, continuing to deliberately violate their human rights and to cause loss of life and injury. In the occupied West Bank, Khaldoun Samoudi, 22 years old, was killed in cold blood by Israeli occupying forces positioned at Al-Hamra military checkpoint, east of Tubas in the West Bank. It should be recalled that on 2 January 2011, Ahmed Daraghma, 25 years old, was also killed at the same checkpoint while on his way to work. The death of Daraghma was conveyed in our letter to you dated 7 January 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011/6).

Moreover, over the past 24 hours, Israeli occupying forces carried out yet another air strike against the Gaza Strip, deliberately targeting and committing the extrajudicial execution of Jamal al-Najjar, 25 years old, in broad daylight as he was riding his motorcycle in Khan Yunis. He was killed immediately and other civilians in the vicinity of the attack were injured and rushed to the hospital. In a separate incident, Israeli occupying forces also shot and killed Shaaban Al-Qarmoot, a 65-year-old farmer in the northern Gaza Strip. These latest incidents of Israeli aggression only cause further suffering in an already devastated society, living a humanitarian disaster because of the punitive, inhumane siege Israel, the occupying Power, has been imposing on the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza since 2007.

All of these actions clearly demonstrate the conscious choice the occupying Power is making in response to the overwhelming will of the international community, which is working tirelessly to save any credible chance for peace that may still exist from the jeopardy its illegal actions have caused. We call upon the international community to condemn Israel's ongoing settlement activities and all other illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to unequivocally call upon the occupying Power to respect its legal obligations under international law and relevant United Nations resolutions, as well as its obligations and commitments in the peace process, including under the Quartet road map. Israel must be compelled to desist immediately from all such

illegal, violent and provocative actions that are absolutely contradictory to the law and to the aim of achieving a just and lasting peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 381 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 7 January 2011 (A/ES-10/528-S/2011/6), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine

United Nations A/ES-10/510 S/2011/42

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Security Council

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31 January 2011

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General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 28 January 2011 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate, with deepening unrest and instability on the ground. This deterioration is clearly linked to the illegal, destructive and provocative policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power, and its provocations and incitement against the Palestinian people. This includes ongoing acts of violence against the Palestinian civilian population by Israeli settlers, illegally transferred to the Occupied Territory and clearly constituting part of the occupying forces. Settler terror, harassment and destruction continue unabated, on a daily basis, without fear of punishment or being brought to justice for their crimes against the Palestinian people.

Over the past few days, acts of lawlessness and terror being perpetrated by Israeli settlers have intensified and have included, among other crimes, the beating and killing of Palestinian civilians, including children; the torching of fields and orchards; the vandalizing of homes and vehicles; and harassment and humiliation of Palestinians. Such illegal actions by settlers are perpetrated in full view of the Israeli occupying forces, who, instead of imposing law and order upon these radical settlers, are actually enabling their crimes through the military and financial assistance and protection accorded to them.

In this regard, I must draw your attention to the following illegal, brutal actions committed by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians and their properties in the current period. Yesterday, 27 January 2011, an Israeli settler from the illegal settlement of "Bracha" shot and killed a Palestinian teenager in the village of Iraq Burin near Nablus in the Occupied West Bank. Uday Maher Qadous, aged 18, was fired upon by a settler as he worked on his family's orchard and was killed instantly by a bullet to the left side of his chest. Qadous's lifeless body was left in the field for over an hour and a half before medical crews were able to take him to a nearby hospital. Tragically, Qadous is the third civilian from the village of Iraq Burin to be killed by terrorist settlers over the past year.

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Also yesterday, settlers from the illegal settlement of "Sousia" attacked two Palestinian shepherds from the town of Yatta, south of Al-Khalil (Hebron), with iron bars, leaving one in serious condition. Israeli occupying forces looked on and did nothing to stop the settlers from attacking the Palestinian shepherds. Instead, the occupying forces arrested two Palestinians who were in the vicinity, including a photographer who was documenting the attack. Also yesterday, another Palestinian farmer was beaten severely by an Israeli settler from the illegal settlement of "Betar Eilit". In the Palestinian village of Ainabus, in the Nablus area, Israeli settlers from the illegal settlement of "Yitzhar" entered the village, breaking the fence of a home and setting a car ablaze.

Such acts of terror continued today with an attack by settlers from the illegal "Bat Ayin" settlement against Palestinian civilians from the village of Safa, north of Al-Khalil (Hebron). In this latest attack, two Palestinians were injured. Of the two injured, Yousef Fakhri Mousa Ikhiel, aged 17, remains in critical condition and on life support, after sustaining gunshot wounds to the head.

At the same time, the Israeli occupying forces have continued to commit innumerable other grave violations against the Palestinian people subjugated under this brutal military occupation. Today, 28 January 2011, near the sealed-off Sufa commercial crossing point in the besieged Gaza Strip, Adham Abu Selima, aged 13, was violently killed as an Israeli explosive went off as he grazed his sheep. Also, on 20 January 2011, Salem Mohammed Samoudi, from the town of Al-Yamoun, north of Jenin, was killed by occupying forces manning an Israeli checkpoint nearby, and three other civilians, including a child, were injured in the attack. It is imperative to note that the Israeli occupying forces denied Samoudi access to medical treatment for several hours after he was shot, further violating the victim's human rights.

Moreover, in the Occupied West Bank, non-violent peaceful demonstrations organized by Palestinian civilians and international human rights defenders in protest of Israel's continued illegal construction of the Wall and settlements continue to be met with violence from the Israeli occupying forces. On Friday, 21 January 2011, scores of peaceful protestors were injured, some seriously, in the villages of Bil'in, Ni'lin and Beit Reema, by the firing of rubber-coated bullets, sound bombs, tear-gas canisters, and even hot gas, which was sprayed onto the face of one protestor.

In addition to these acts of violence and depravity by the occupying forces and their militant, extremist settlers, the occupying Power also continues to construct and expand illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, in grave breach of international law and in flagrant defiance of the international calls for a full cessation of settlement activities in the Palestinian land occupied by Israel since 1967. Just last week, the Security Council, in its open debate on "The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question", heard the clear calls by the entire international community reaffirming the illegality of Israel's settlement activities and the undeniable fact that they are a major obstacle to peace.

As repeatedly cautioned by the Palestinian leadership, Israel's settlement campaign constitutes an existential threat to the two-State solution for peace in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, including the land for peace principle, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map. Despite this and despite the fact that over 100 Member States have signed on

to the draft resolution currently before the Security Council (S/2011/24), which rejects Israel's unlawful settlement campaign and calls for its complete cessation, the occupying Power brazenly continues this illegal campaign to the grave detriment of peace prospects and further raising tensions on the ground, especially in Occupied East Jerusalem.

Indeed, the occupying Power has only responded to the global calls for a halt to its illegal actions with further illegal actions and defiance. In this regard, on 15 January 2011, the Israeli Government once again announced plans for the expansion of illegal settlements in Occupied East Jerusalem. More than 1,400 illegal settlement units were recently approved in the settlement of "Gilo", which is built on land confiscated from the Palestinian villages of Beit Jala, Sharafat and Beit Safafa. In addition, on Sunday, 23 January 2011, Israeli bulldozers destroyed more Palestinian agricultural land, uprooting olive trees and dozens of grapevines and almond trees in the town of Al Khader, south of Bethlehem, for the purpose of expanding a Jewish-only bypass road to serve the illegal settlement of "Daniel" nearby.

It must be recalled that this blatant, relentless colonization of the Palestinian land has been perpetrated by the occupying Power in deliberate and grave breach of the relevant provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Settlement construction, expansion and transfer of Israeli settlers also constitute direct and serious violations of numerous Security Council resolutions as well as of obligations undertaken by Israel under the Quartet road map. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable for such ongoing and systematic breaches of its legal obligations. Adoption by the Security Council of the draft resolution before it would surely contribute in this regard, sending the proper and strong message to the Israeli Government that such illegal policies and actions will no longer be tolerated by the international community, which has directly and clearly stated its aim to end the occupation that began in 1967 and achieve a peaceful settlement, and thus rejects any and all such illegal measures intended to further entrench Israel's occupation of the Palestinian land and acquire more territory by force.

The grave situation before us requires urgent attention and serious action by the international community. The Security Council must uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It must reaffirm its rejection of Israel's settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and not waver in its demand for a complete cessation. At the same time, the international community must not waver in its calls for a halt to all other illegal policies and practices, including those committed by illegal Israeli settlers, that are jeopardizing the situation on the ground and seriously sabotaging the possibility of achieving the two-State solution for peace on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. If Israel continues to ignore the mounting global calls in this regard, it should face serious and real consequences. The double standard in dealing with Israel, the occupying Power, must come to an end. It is high time for the international community to display its resolve and bring Israel into compliance, once and for all, if there is to be any promotion of a climate truly conducive to the pursuit of peace. Otherwise, there is great risk of further destabilization of this fragile situation, with vastly negative repercussions in the area as well as throughout the region.

The present letter is in follow-up to our previous 382 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 January 2011 (A/ES-10/509-S/2011/9), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations